

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
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C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 1251

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS SHUM, PINT, AR
SUBJECT POSSIBLE FAVORABLE DECISIONS ON DEUTSCH AND OTHER
HUMAN RIGHTS CASES

REF: BUENOS AIRES 9282

1. FROM A VARIETY OF SOURCES WE HAVE RECEIVED A
NUMBER OF SIGNALS THAT FAVORABLE JUNTA ACTION MAY
BE IMMINENT IN THE CASE OF ALEJANDRO DEUTSCH AND
OTHERS OF HIGH US INTEREST. AS WE
REPORTED IN REFTEL, MINISTER OF INTERIOR HARGUINDEGUY
TOLD THE AMBASSADOR FEBRUARY 16 THAT THE JUNTA WOULD
BE CONSIDERING THE DEUTSCH, VOGLER AND TIMERMAN
CASES "SOON". ON THAT OCCASION, THE MINISTER STATED
THE OPINION THAT DEUTSCH AND VOGLER HAD DONE NOTHING
MORE THAN ACT AS ANY NORMAL PARENT WOULD HAVE DONE
IN ATTEMPTING TO PROTECT THEIR KIN. (TIMERMAN WAS
AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT MATTER, HOWEVER.)

2. UNOFFICIAL SOURCES CLOSE TO THE NAVY IN THE PAST
DAY OR TWO HAVE COINCIDED IN THE VIEW THAT DEUTSCH
PARTICULARLY WAS ABOUT TO BENEFIT FROM A FAVORABLE DECISION.
TODAY (FEBRUARY 17), ADMIRAL MASSERA SENT A POLITICAL AIDE,
CAPT MONTEMAYOR, TO INFORM THE AMBASSADOR THAT DEUTSCHS
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RELEASE WOULD BE EFFECTED SHORTLY. THE AIDE MADE NO MENTION
OF DEUTSCHS DAUGHTER LILIANA AND WE HAVE NO REASON TO ASSUME
THAT SHE MAY BE INCLUDED IN THE REPORTEDLY IMMINENT ACTION.

3. CAPT MONTEMAYOR STRESSED THAT ADMIRAL MASSERA WAS WORKING
HARD TO RESOLVE THE HUMAN RIGHTS CASES OF HIGH INTEREST TO THE
US. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE NAVY WAS AT THE AMBASSADORS COMPLETE

DISPOSAL IN THIS REGARD AND IMPLIED, AS MASSERA HIMSELF HAS BEEN WONT TO DO ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS, THAT THE ARMY WAS THE PRIMARY SOURCE OF OBFUSCATING THE PROBLEM. COMING TO THE BOTTOM LINE OF HIS PROPOSITION, HE THEN ASKED WHY THE NAVY SEEMED TO BE SINGLED OUT FOR DENIALS OF US MILITARY EQUIPMENT WHEN IT WAS THENAVY THAT WAS DOING THE MOST TO IMPROVE THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION. THE AMBASSADOR RESPONDED THAT THERE WAS NO POLICY OF SINGLING OUT ANY SERVICE NOR DID US DICISION MAKERS HOLD ANYTHING PERSONAL AGAINST MASSERA. THE AMBASSADOR EMPHASIZED THAT TIME WAS RUNNING OUT IN WASHINGTON IN TERMS OF THE POLICY DICISION THAT HAD TO BE MADE WITH RESPECT TO ARGENTINA AND THAT IF THERE WAS ANYTHING THAT MASSERA COULD DO TO RESCUE THESE PEOPLE, THIS WOULD BE GREATLY WELCOMED-- AND APPRECIATED-- BY THE USG.

4. IT IS EVIDENT THAT MASSERA IS TRYING TO TAKE CREDIT FOR WHAT APPEARS TO BE IMPENDING JUNTA ACTION IN SOME OF THE HIGH INTEREST CASES. FOR WHATEVER HIS MOTIVES, WE BELIEVE THAT MASSERA HAS BEEN PLAYING A ROLE OF PUSHING A FAVORABLE DECISION THROUGH THE JUNTA AND WE PROPOSE TO CONTINUE ENCOURAGING HIM TO DO SO.

CASTRO

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